Export of soyabean

2961. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has harvested 7 million tonnes of soyabean crop but export of soyameal has not picked up due to low global prices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that South East Asian countries are buying Indian soyameal at prices above Argentina for their urgent needs owing to quick delivery schedule; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to boost export of soyameal at competitive rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes. Production of soyabean during last three years is as under :

Year	Production (in lakh MTs)
2002-03	45.58
2003-04	78.54
2004-05	77.52 (2nd Adv. Estimates)

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)

The export of soyameal during the past few years is as under:

Year	Quantity (in lakh MTs)	Value (Rs. Crore)
2001-02	23.83	2062
2002-03	14.41	1336
2003-04	17.26	1903
Apr., 2004 to Aug., 2004	5.38	690

(Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata)

(b) No such data is available. However the Soyabean Processors Association of India (SOPA) has informed that India enjoys distinct

advantages over other global competitors like USA, Brazil and Argentina for exports to South East Asian countries *viz.* lower transaction cost due to proximity to these countries, protein richer and cheaper Indian soyabean which could be dispatched in small quantities leading to less cost in storage and locking up of less funds.

(c) Some of the steps taken to enhance agri-exports, including soyameal include sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and conducting market surveys. Recently, the excise duty on Food Grade Hexane, which is a solvent used for extraction of oil, has been reduced from 32% to 16%.

Effect of WTO on small and big industries

†2962. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all small and big industries of the country will be economically affected with the inclusion of India in World Trade Organisation (WTO); and

(b) if so, the details of measures Government are taking to make indigenous industries competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The World Trade Organisation has established a global rule-based, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system. India's membership of World Trade Organisation, since 1995, has provided an opportunity to multilaterally negotiate trade issues and to put in place permissible measures such as import licensing and trade defence mechanisms like safeguard action and anti-dumping which are aimed at ensuring a fair and transparent trading regime.

(b) Measures taken by Government to make indigenous industry competitive *inter alia* include cluster development, availability of institutional credit, assistance for adoption of modern management practices, use of Information Technology and a new scheme known as the "Manufacturing

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.